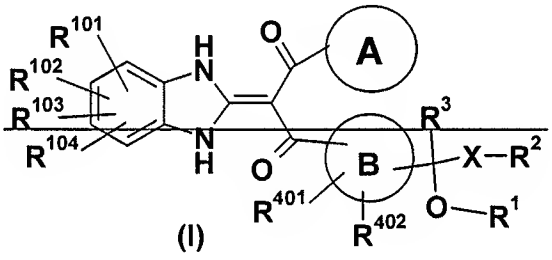
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

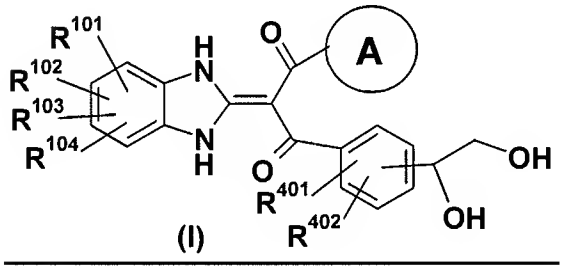
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by the ~~general~~ formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



~~(I)~~



~~[~~symbols in the formula mean as follows,

ring A: benzene which may be substituted with 1 to 3 substituent groups, wherein the substituent group is halogen, CN, lower alkyl which may be substituted with halogen, -O-lower alkyl, -CO-O- lower alkyl or amino, ~~pyridine which may be substituted or thiophene ring,~~

~~ring B: benzene or thiophene ring,~~

~~R^1: H or -CO-lower alkyl,~~

~~R^2: H, -O-R^5, -N(R^6)R^7, $-N_3$, -S(O)$_m$-lower alkyl, -S(O)$_m$-N(R^6)R^7 -S(O)$_m$-N(R^6)R^7, halogen, pyridyl or imidazolyl which may be substituted,~~

~~R^5: H, lower alkyl, -CO-lower alkyl which may be substituted, or -CO-O-lower alkyl which may be substituted,~~

~~R^6 and R^7: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, lower alkyl, or -CO-lower alkyl, with the proviso that R^1 and R^2 may together form dioxolane which may be substituted,~~

~~m: 0, 1 or 2,~~

~~R^3: H or lower alkyl,~~

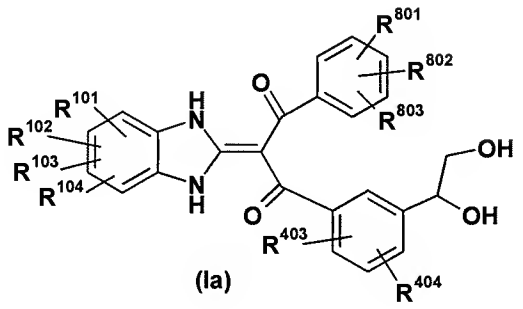
R^{401} and R^{402}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen, OH, -O-lower alkyl, or lower alkyl,

~~X: bond, lower alkylene which may be substituted, or cycloalkanediyl,~~

R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl which may be substituted with ~~(~~aryl or heteroaryl~~)~~].

2.-3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by ~~a general~~ the formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(Ia)

(symbols in the formula mean as follows,

R^{801}, R^{802} and R^{803}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl,

R^{403} and R^{404}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl, and,

R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl which may be substituted with (aryl or heteroaryl)).

5. (currently amended): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 4, which is ~~at least one~~ a compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(1,3-Dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-butyl-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[5-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]2-methylphenyl}propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-

benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(2,3,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(3-methylphenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-fluorophenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; and 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione.

6.-11. (canceled).

12. (new): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein ring A is benzene which may be substituted with 1 to 3 substituent groups, wherein the substituent groups may be the same or different from each other and each is halogen or lower alkyl.

13. (new): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 12, wherein R^{401} and R^{402} may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen, or lower alkyl.

14. (new): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 13, wherein R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104} are each H.

15. (new): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 4, wherein R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104} are each H.